

# THE UNITED The James River Journal METHODIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER



## 2014 James River District **PASTORS** We're glad you're here



### The Book Family

Joy, Isaiah, Anastasia and Andrew

Andrew and his wife, Joy, have been married since 2005 and have two wonderful children: Anastasia (5) and Isaiah (3) who both just started at Southampton Academy. Joy is from Syracuse, New York and has spent the last year working as a chaplain at Maryview Medical Center in Portsmouth. She is currently studying counseling at Old Dominion in Norfolk. Andrew is from Atlanta, Georgia and attended seminary at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California (where he and Joy met). He has served in a number of different capacities in the church, including youth director, campus minister, missionary, and lead pastor in contexts from California to Lunenburg County, Virginia to Portsmouth, Virginia and Mori, India. He is passionate about helping the church create a community of meaningful relationships which push us to

### Courtland UMC Pastor

Andrew and his wife, Joy, have been married since 2005 and have two wonderful children: Anastasia (5) and Isaiah (3) who both just started at Southampton Academy. Joy is from Syracuse, New York and has spent the last year working as a chaplain at Maryview Medical Center in Portsmouth. She is

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From Page 1... grow as disciples of Jesus Christ who are inspired by truly encountering God through worship and prayer. Andrew, Joy, Anastasia, and Isaiah are looking forward to joining the community of faith at Courtland UMC and discovering how God is calling us to be people of faith in the years to come!

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Mrs. Mary Alice Colwell

**Claremont UMC** Mary Alice Colwell has been married for 42 years. For thirty of those years, Mary Alice has been a minister's wife and now, she is a District Superintendent's wife. Rob and Mary Alice have three children and seven grandchildren, six of whom are boys! When they moved to the James River District, she retired after 20 years as a Labor and Delivery nurse. She prayed daily, asking God how He wanted her to serve Him in this new area. She believes God has called her to use previous experiences, but to take them to the next level. Therefore, Mary Alice has become a Certified Lay Speaker, and she has been accepted into the Candidacy Program for Ministry.

*"I am humbled and excited that God has called me to this type of service to Him. I am excited to be assigned as Lay Supply Pastor to Claremont United Methodist Church and very much look forward to serving God through Claremont. Praise be to God!"*

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**First UMC** Chris Andress' family moved to Richmond, VA in 1976 from Bethlehem, PA. They have lived in a few places around Southside since then. Chris was called into the ministry during his sophomore year at Virginia Commonwealth University while working towards a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art Education. After graduating from Asbury Theological Seminary in 1997, he began serving Memorial United Methodist Church in Charles City. He then served as the Associate at Farmville United Methodist Church. He got married while serving in Farmville. Chris and his wife, Adria moved to Portsmouth, as he was appointed to serve at Broad Street United Methodist Church in 2000. Four years later Susannah Hope Andress was born! After another year they moved to the Northern Neck, where he was appointed to serve the Carmel/Coles Point Charge. After three long years, they were not used to the isolation as they were both from Richmond, he asked to move, and they were delighted to be appointed to Hopewell United Methodist Church in Chesterfield County. ***"The six years we have been at Hopewell Church have flown by! Adria is a teacher at Bensley Elementary where Susannah attended through the third grade. Susannah will begin fourth grade at Hening Elementary School in the center based gifted program."***



Rev. Chris Andress



Mr. R. Shaun Smith

**Philadelphia Charge** R. Shaun Smith hails from Greenville, SC, where his mother, father and eight of his nine siblings still live. He has a sister residing in Tennessee. He joined the Navy in 1975, serving 21 years as a Nuclear Engineer, primarily on submarines. After retiring from the Navy, Shaun went into the home improvement business. His specialty was accessibility remodeling of homes for the elderly and disabled. In 2001, he received certification as a Spiritual Director from the Virginia Institute for Spiritual Direction in Smithfield, VA. Shaun met his wife, the Rev. Donna Smith (Waverly UMC), while they were attending the school, and they married in 2005.

*"I have felt a calling to the ministry for several years now and have fulfilled that call by working with youth, serving in various mission fields and in men's ministry. Late this past year, God made it clear that it was time for me to pursue ministry in the pulpit, and I have submitted my application to become a Licensed Local Pastor.*

## additional APPOINTMENTS

Mark Richardson (Dori)  
First, Hopewell

Stephen King (Lisa)  
Trinity, Disputanta

Michael Harrington (Julie)  
Magnolia

Andrew Ware (Sarah)  
Twin Grove Charge  
Oak Grove and Smiths Grove

Glenn Riggs (Amy)  
Oxford

Ken Hanson (Sarah)  
Somerton

**Timothy "Todd" Smith**  
(Barbara)  
Associate, Petersburg Cooperative  
Parish  
Washington Street

## Clergy Retreat

September 23-24, 2014

Blackstone Conference  
and Retreat Center

*Keynote speaker and event facilitator will be Ray Buchannan, formerly of Stop Hunger Now and The Potato Project, and **author of soon to be released book, "Get Off Your But."***

The District will pay half the cost (\$70), and we are asking each church/charge to pay the remaining \$70 for this training event. Please make checks payable to the James River District.

*Congratulations to our newly Licensed Local Pastors: Delano Douglas and Andrew Ware and on the Commissioning of Provisional Member, Gerald (Jerry) Wicker.*

this month  
**FROM THE DS**  
Enough! – Part 2

Stress. Anxiety. Fear.

These words capture well the state of mind of many of the churches on the James River District. We have witnessed dramatic losses, a steady decline in vitality, and an increase in churches on life-support. The worst of it is that every day someone dies without knowing about the abundant and eternal joy that Jesus Christ offers and still we spend so much time and energy on things that do not address this reality. Everyday 21,000 children will die due to hunger, poverty and other preventable illness. Everyday hundreds of thousands will go to sleep without a home. And the list goes on...



Rev. Dr. Rob Colwell

Add to that is a survey that reports over three in four Americans are stressed about the economy and their personal finances. Half were worried about providing for their family's basic needs. Over half of respondents reported feeling angry and irritable, and reported lying awake at night worried about this. The report concludes that, "The declining state of the nation's economy is taking a physical and emotional toll on people nationwide."

This past June I asked this question, "Have you had enough?" Mainline Christianity has been in the wilderness far too long (over 40 years now) and I for one have had enough manna! I'm ready to take the risky leap of faith in spite of the giants in the land and in spite of our grasshopper insecurity complex (see Numbers 13:25-33). I for one believe God is still asking the church to have the courage to live before the world what God intends for the world.

Churches have been on the defensive far too long, and if we think we can just exist to maintain an institution, or mind the store, then we better start calling ourselves something other than the Body of Christ. If you've had enough of the same old song then perhaps you too hear Jesus calling for the church to wake up and reclaim the prime directive (that's for you Trekkies). We are not given the spirit of fear, or stress or anxiety but we are given the fruits of the Holy Spirit which are love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, patience, goodness, faithfulness and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23). I like those much better. Besides, I think if we just get busy making disciples, God will take care of the rest of our worries and stress.

Here is how the James River District is moving toward this end:

1. The Bishop has asked each church to be in intentional prayer for renewal and revitalization of God's purpose and desire for each church. Please do so.
2. We have brought onto our District staff, the Rev. Dr. Jim O'Quinn, whose main responsibility will be to help churches discern a fresh vision from the Holy Spirit.

*Continued on Page 5...*





Bishop Cho and his leadership of the Conference

Our Charge Conferences and the revitalization of our churches

The Family of Walter Andress (Chris Andress' father)

Nora Bartlett (Pennie Foy's mother) Centenary, Chesterfield

Lieu Lewis Brandermill Woods Rehabilitation Center

Gail Lucy Wakefield

Jack Meservy's mother Whaleyville

Brown O'Quinn (Jim O'Quinn's father)

Charles Piluso

Gene Tatum

Peggy Watson (medical mission trip to Honduras)

Gus & Mary Wright



## this month FROM THE DS

Enough! – Part 2  
(From page 4)

- 3. We are putting together a team to pray and discern the possibilities for new faith communities on our District.
- 4. We are restructuring the District so we can better function to help local churches make disciples. The new vision statement for the James River District is:

### Helping Disciples Make Disciples

- 5. We will spend time at each of our Charge Conferences answering these three basic questions (from Adam Hamilton, *Leading Beyond the Walls*):

Why do people need Christ?

Why do people need the church?

Why do people need our church?

**I truly believe that if we focus on God's dream for the church we will have find we already have enough to do what God wants us to do. To that end, I am praying for congregations whose only passion will be to glorify God and our only desire will be to do God's will.**

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If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chron. 7:14)

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Had enough? Well, come on then!

*Rob*

## Interesting!

A treasure trove was recently uncovered at the James River District office. Did you know that there are artifacts and historical documents for every church that was on the old Petersburg District? This is just a wealth of information! Perhaps you have an upcoming program or special service planned. Maybe as a pastor you could benefit in knowing a special bit of history about your building or congregation. Truly, this is very interesting. Who knows what you may learn. For example: In 1850, there were more Methodists on the Brunswick Charge than in all of New York City! Come and enjoy learning about your congregation.

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## join the UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

I was going through a McDonald's drive-thru recently (yeah, I know I shouldn't, but I'm hooked) and saw a poster that hung on the outside wall - **"Little by little we can do a lot."** That may sum up the goal of many organizations, but it is especially indicative of the United Methodist Church and our connectional approach to mission in this country and around the world. I may give \$25 to UMCOR or make a health kit for Conference and someone might say to me, "So what?" What is that \$25 going to do for Super Storm Sandy victims or what is one health kit going to do for the thousands of people along the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina? Probably not much, but when my \$25 joins your \$25 and another's \$100 and so on, it makes A LOT of difference. And when my one health kit is collected together with 30,000+ kits across this Conference alone – **that's a major statement!**

We can do so much more together than we can do individually – and that is the beauty of the United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women (and UMM) and our system of connectionalism. If you want to make a statement, if you want to put your gifts to good use and really help someone or many "someones," come to a UMW meeting and see what we are all about.

Sally McGrath, President, United Methodist Women

434.246.8022

[smcgrathgrammie1@peoplepc.com](mailto:smcgrathgrammie1@peoplepc.com)

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## director of CONGREGATIONAL EXCELLENCE

The James River District is looking for 10 brave Churches/Charges that desire revitalization to become vibrant Bodies of Christ. This Church Renewal Initiative is not a "top down" program. This new initiative will help your local congregation fulfill your ministry and mission. The James River District will help the discernment process as your congregations seek to become fruitful and a vital congregation. Each Charge Conference will receive information on revitalization. Applications will be accepted, and the 10 Churches/Charges will begin work in 2015.



Rev. Dr. Jim O'Quinn

Jim O'Quinn, Director of Congregational Excellence

804.732.2538

[oquinnjim@gmail.com](mailto:oquinnjim@gmail.com)

## parkers lake update from **BECKY PAXTON**

Our children are so thankful for the donations that you and others have made. We were able to purchase a game table (air hockey, pool and ping-pong) for the after-school program and a huge order of much-needed supplies for the preschool program. We are so grateful for your generosity.

The preschool year has now finished, after being extended into June because of ice and snow delays this winter. The preschoolers had a great time with their princess and pirate-themed “prom” and our western-themed graduation. We graduated 12 of our students to kindergarten. (Pictured below)



This summer, we provided summer camps for area children. There were two weeks each for 6-8 year olds and 9-12 year olds, and one week for the teen girls and teen boys. These consisted of a day camp on Monday and overnight tent camping a a Jellystone Park from Tuesday through Thursday (Note: I have never been a tent camper...) We also had a week of day camp for our preschoolers. It was definitely a busy summer!

*Continued...*

I am experiencing many new things in Kentucky - tent camping, mud bog racing, and being accepted into the Moonshine Millionaires Band. I am so blessed to be able to be serving this community, and I have extended my service through June of next year. Please continue to keep me, our programs, and this community in your prayers.

Much love and blessings to all,  
Becky Paxton

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## district **YOUTH**

The James River District is excited to announce the Fall Youth Retreat, which will be held at Camp Willow Run on September 27-28, 2014. Our keynote speaker will be Rev. Mike Tolbert and the Sparrows will lead worship. The forms and registration fee of \$80.00 per person are due to Laura Hancock by September 13th. You may download the forms on our website at [www.jamesriverdistrictumc.org](http://www.jamesriverdistrictumc.org) under “Events.”

Please send forms and fees to:  
Laura Hancock  
22914 River Rd  
North Dinwiddie, VA 23803





## 2014 James River District Charge Conference Schedule (Final)

Date	Time	Church/Charge	Pastor
August 13	7:00 pm	CHARGE CONFERENCE ORIENTATION	Blandford UMC, Petersburg
August 27	7:00 pm	CHARGE CONFERENCE ORIENTATION	Courtland UMC, Courtland
September 17	7:00 pm	Providence	Garland Hines
September 18	7:00 pm	Hopewell	Mark Richardson
September 22	5:30 pm	Gary's	Henry Butler
	7:00 pm	Salem	Robin C. M. Jones
September 25	5:30 pm	Ettrick	Bobby Lamb
	7:00 pm	None	
September 28	2:00 pm	Blandford	Jacob Sahms
September 29	5:30 pm	Surry Charge @ Dendron	Ray Rowland
	7:00 pm	Rocky Hock/Ivor Charge @ Ivor	Clifton Fritzing
September 30	7:00 pm	Bermuda Hundred	Elizabeth Anderson
October 5	2:00 pm	Carson	Joseph Hammond
	4:00 pm	Waverly	Donna Smith
October 6	5:30 pm	Wesley (Hopewell)	Steven Vornov
	7:00 pm	First	J. Christopher Andress
October 7	5:30 pm	Lebanon (Dinwiddie)	John Fair
	7:00 pm	Mt. Olivet	S. Ray Watson
October 8	5:30 pm	Trinity (Disputanta)	Stephen King
	7:00 pm	Wakefield	Curtis Lucy
October 12	2:00 pm	Sussex Charge @ Fort Grove	Norma Townsley
	4:00 pm	Concord	Brian Simmons
October 13	5:30 pm	Brunswick Charge @ Edgerton	Ruth Collins Dinger
	7:00 pm	Philadelphia Charge @ Philadelphia	R. Shaun Smith
October 14	5:30 pm	Trinity (Petersburg)	Gerald Miller
	7:00 pm	Matoaca	Richard Gordon
October 15	5:30 pm	Woods	Joseph Carson
	7:00 pm	Wesley Chapel	Michelle Lindsey
October 16	5:30 pm	Bethia	James Carey
	7:00 pm	Centenary (Chesterfield)	Pennie Foy
October 19	2:00 pm	Ivey Memorial	Nathan Decker
October 20	5:30 pm	Lebanon (Jarratt)	Phyllis Piluso
	7:00 pm	Centenary (Jarratt)	Linwood Daniel
October 21	5:30 pm	Boykins Charge @ Boykins	Michael Baugham
	7:00 pm	Newsoms Charge @ Barnes	Darwin Edwards
October 27	5:30 pm	W. Dinwiddie Charge @ Corinth	James O'Quinn
	7:00 pm	Ocran	R. Larry House
October 28	5:30 pm	Kenwood	Mary Dadisman
	7:00 pm	McKenney Charge @ Mansons	S. Karen Workman
October 29	5:30 pm	Wesley (Colonial Heights)	L. Raymond McGarr
	7:00 pm	Highland	Dorothy O'Quinn
October 30	5:30 pm	Sycamore	DeWayne Duncan
	7:00 pm	Prince George Charge @ Newville	Gilbert Elder



## 2014 James River District Charge Conference Schedule Pg 2

Date	Time	Church/Charge	Pastor
November 2	2:00 pm	Monumental	Gerald Wicker
	4:00 pm	Capron Charge @ Drewryville	Nancy Palmer
	6:00 pm	High Street	John Ashley
November 3	5:30 pm	Whaleyville	John E. Meservy
	7:30 pm	Main Street (Suffolk) - note time change	Myrtle Hatcher
November 4	5:30 pm	Crawford	Thomas Lester
	7:00 pm	Twin Grove Charge @ Smiths Grove	Andrew Ware
November 5	5:30 pm	Main Street (Emporia)	A. Bruce Carper
	7:00 pm	Greensville Charge @ Mount Pleasant	Joellen Simmons
November 9	2:00 pm	Magnolia	Michael Harrington
	4:00 pm	Oxford	Glenn Riggs
	6:00 pm	Somerton	Kenneth Hanson
November 10	5:30 pm	Courtland	Andrew Book
	7:00 pm	Trinity Circuit @ Sebrell	Rita Kanten
November 13	5:30 pm	Trinity (Chesterfield)	Teresa Keezel
	7:00 pm	Chester	Sylvia Meadows
<b>November 16</b>	<b>3:00 pm</b>	<b>DISTRICT CONFERENCE</b>	<b>FIRST UMC, HOPEWELL</b>
November 17	6:00 pm	Petersburg Cooperative Parish @ Washington St.	Gretchen Nelson
		note time change	
		Total = 58	

Movie  
Night

**“Noah”**



Blandford UMC

11607 S. Crater Rd  
Petersburg, VA 23805

September 16, 2014

6:00 pm

Please be our Guest

176th Anniversary of  
Persons United Methodist Church

Drewryville, Virginia  
Sunday, September 21, 2014

Worship at 9:45 am

Picnic on the grounds  
immediately following  
the worship service

Bring a dish to share

All are welcome

# district CALENDAR

- Sept. 1 District Office Closed for Labor Day
- Sept. 11 Finance Workshop, 7:00 pm, Trinity UMC, Chesterfield
- Sept. 17 Providence UMC Charge Conference, 7:00 pm
- Sept. 18 Hopewell UMC Charge Conference, 7:00 pm
- Sept. 22 **Gary's UMC Charge Conference, 5:30 pm**  
Salem UMC Charge Conference, 7:00 pm
- Sept. 25 Ettrick UMC Charge Conference, 5:30 pm
- Sept. 23 & 24 Mandatory Clergy Training, Blackstone Conference Center
- Sept. 27-28 Fall Youth Retreat, Camp Willow Run
- Sept. 28 Blandford UMC Charge Conference, 2:00 pm
- Sept. 29 Surry Charge UMC Charge Conference @ Dendron, 5:30 pm  
Rocky Hock/Ivor Charge UMC Charge Conference @ Ivor, 7:00 pm
- October Charge Conferences will be listed in the October Newsletter
- October 7 DCOM, 10:00 am, District Office
- October 9 Finance Workshop, 7:00 pm, Main Street UMC, Suffolk
- October 17-18 Lay Servant Training, Grace Memorial UMC, Sedley
- November 6 Finance Workshop, 7:00 pm, Wesley UMC, Colonial Heights
- November 16 District Conference, 3:00 pm, First UMC, Hopewell



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## *The James River Journal*

The James River District  
The United Methodist Church  
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Petersburg, VA 23805  
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NEW WEBSITE: [www.jamesriverdistrictumc.org](http://www.jamesriverdistrictumc.org)



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